Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 OMB-01 /060 W

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R 180630Z DEC 75 FM AMEMBASSY SANA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6953 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI

SUBJECT: ARMY/TRIBAL DISTURBANCES IN NORTHERN YAR

- 1. THERE HAVE BEENNUMEROUS RUMORS IN PAST WEEK OF CLASHES BETWEEN YAR ARMY TROOPS AND TRIBAL FORCES IN THE KHAMR AREA. MOST RECENTLY, BRITISH AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THAT HIS MISSION WAS RECEIVING REPORTS OF TROUBLE NEAR KHAMR AND ASKED FOR ANY INFORMATION WE MIGHT HAVE ON SUBJECT.
- 2. ON 16 DEC EMBOFF CALLED ON PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR HUBAYSHI AND, INTER ALIA, ASKED IF HE HAD ANY INFO ON CLASHES IN NORTH. ADVISOR SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN INCIDENT IN KHAMR CIRCA 12 DEC IN WHICH THREE SOLDIERS, WHO FOR REASONS YET TO BE LEARNED HAD GONE SHOPPING IN THE KHAMR MARKET, WERE FIRED UPON BY TRIBAL IRREGULARS. THE ADVISOR WAS NOT SURE IF ANY OF THE SOLDIERS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN HIT OR, IF HIT, HOW SERIOUSLY THEY WERE WOUNDED. HE MENTIONED THAT, ON THE SAME DAY, YAR PRIMIN ABD AL-GHANI HAD BEEN SEEKING INFORMATION ON THE REPORTED INCIDENT.
- 3. THE ADVISOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE LATEST INCIDENT WAS MINOR AND NOT A SOURCE OF SERIOUS CONCERN CONFIDENTIAL

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IN SANA. THE YARG, NEVERTHELESS, WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED

OVER THE CONTINUED ATTEMPTS BY FORMER COMMAND COUNCIL MEMBER, LT COL MUJAHID ABU SHUWARIB, TO FOMENT REBELLION AGAINST THE REGIME. HE SAID THAT ABU SHUWARIB'S ACTIVITY HAD CONTINUED DESPITE THE BUDDING RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE REGIME AND ABU SHUWARIB'S PATRON AND BROTHER-IN-LAW SHAIKH ABDULLAH BIN HUSAYN AL-AHMAR. ABU SHUWARIB, HE SAID, WAS BECOMING A SIMPLE OUTLAW AND WAS RISKING HEAVY REGIME REACTION. THE ADVISOR SAID THERE WAS ALREADY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE USE OF AIR STRIKES AGAINST ABU SHUWARIB'S STRONG-POINTS NORTH OF KHAMR. HUBAYSHI WENT ON TO SAY THAT USG SHOULD CONSIDER INFORMING SAUDIS OF ABU SHUWARIB'S DANGEROUS ACTIVITY, IN THE HOPE THAT THE SAUDIS MIGHT USE WHATEVER INFLUENCE THEY HAVE OVER ABU SHUWARIB TO DISSUADE HIM FROM FURTHER PROVOCATIONS.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF ABOVE REPORT PASSED TO SAUDIS ALONG WITH HUBAYSHI'S COMMENT THAT SAUDIS MIGHT PLAY POSITIVE ROLE IN RESTRAINING ABU SHUWARIB AND THEREBY SUPPORTING THE HAMDI/AL-AHMAR RAPPROACHMENT.

SCOTES

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